

**At a Special Meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Middletown,  
RI held at the Middletown Town Hall on Wednesday, May 27, 2015 at  
6:00 P.M.**

**Council President Robert J. Sylvia, Presiding**

**Vice President Robert Kempenaar, II**

**Councillor Henry F. Lombardi, Jr.**

**Councillor Paul M. Rodrigues**

**Councillor M. Theresa Santos**

**Councillor Antone C. Viveiros**

**Councillor Barbara A. VonVillas, Members Present**

**POSTED – May 21, 2015**

**Wendy J.W. Marshall, Town Clerk**

**Town of Middletown**

**Town Hall – 350 East Main Road**

**Middletown, Rhode Island 02842**

**Dear Ms. Marshall:**

**Pursuant to the provisions of Article II, Section 203 of the Town Charter and in accordance with Sections 42-46-2., 42-46-3, 42-46-4., 42-46-5 and 42-46-6., RIGL, I hereby call a Special Meeting of the Town Council to formally consider, discuss and vote upon the following items of business:**

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

### **1. Public Hearing (Advertised)**

**(Public Hearing Remains Open)**

#### **An Ordinance of the Town of Middletown (Second Reading)**

**An Ordinance in amendment to the ordinances of the Town of Middletown General Fund, Parks and Recreation Fund, Sewer Fund, Refuse and Recycling Fund and Stormwater Utility Fund Appropriating revenues for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016, as amended”.**

### **2. Resolution of the Council, re: Tax Levy Resolution.**

**3. Resolution of the Council, re: Memorializing the General Assembly to Enact Legislation Authorizing the town of Middletown To Finance the Design, Construction, Repair, Rehabilitation and Improvement of Streets and Sidewalks in the Town, Including But Not Limited to Paving, Drainage, Traffic Control Devices, Safety Improvements and Landscaping in the Town.**

**Said meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 27, 2015 at 6:00 P.M. at the Middletown Town Hall, 350 East Main Road, Middletown, Rhode Island 02842.**

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**Robert J. Sylvia, President**

**Middletown Town Council**

**cc:**

**Town Council**

**School Department**

**Town Administrator**

**Senior Center**

**Town Solicitor**

**Police Dept.**

**Finance Director**

**Fire Dept.**

**Public Library**

**Public Works**

**Tax Assessor**

**Building Inspector**

**Town Planner**

**IT Director**

**Town Engineer**

**Human Resource Director**

**School Department**

**Recycling Coordinator**

**Substance Abuse Coordinator**

**This meeting location is accessible to the handicapped. Individuals requiring interpreter services for the hearing-impaired should notify the Town Clerk's Office at 847-0009 not less than 48 hours before the meeting.**

**On motion of Vice President Kempenaar, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to receive said communication.**

**Present, representing the School Department, were Superintendent Rosemarie Kraeger, Assistant Superintendent Linda Savastano, Business Manager Raquel Pellerin, Facilities Director Peter Anderson, Jr., School Committee Chair Theresa Spengler, Vice Chair Kellie DiPalma and members Liana Ferreira Fenton and Douglas Arnold.**

## **1. Public Hearing (Advertised)**

**(Public Hearing Remains Open)**

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**2016, as amended”.**

**Public Hearing remains open.**

**Erin Seiler, 155 Purgatory Road, addressed the Council reading the email entered**

**here:**

**Jean Brown, 107 Niagra Street, addressed the Council requesting them to fully fund the proposed School Budget. Ms. Brown explained that the school department is not asking for perks, they are asking for funds to run the schools.**

**Council President Sylvia presented the following powerpoint presentation, entered here:**

**Jean Brown, 107 Niagra Street, addressed the Council noting the need for monies for the students.**

**Superintendent Rosemarie Kraeger noted that the School Department is a service organization and there is no fluff in the proposed budget. Ms. Kraeger explained that the \$144,000 should not be placed on the backs of the students or teachers.**

**School Committee Chair Theresa Spengler requested the Council to fully fund the proposed School Budget from Refuse and Recycling or the Beaches; noting that the Town can raise fees, the school department cannot raise funds.**

**Councillor Lombardi noted all departments are doing more with less and would like to refrain from burdening the taxpayers with more fees.**

**Discussion centered around school administration salaries, student education, staff having multiple roles, Kennedy School, School and Council working together, consultant for the School Department to assist in labor negotiations, programs, means and measures and the school facility study.**

**Councillor VonVillas noted her commitment as an educator and explained that she will support the 2%, which is fair and equitable to all who live in Middletown.**

**Councillor Santos noted that she will support the proposed School Budget.**

**Councillor Viveiros explained that the Town is not against the Schools and makes his decisions as though the Town is his family.**

**Discussion centered around Regional Special Education, teacher lay-offs, Fire department brush truck (funding, use, equipment and**

**need), Fire Boat and Police cars purchase in the budget (use, funding, equipment and need).**

**Jameson Brennan, 8 year old Aquidneck School Student, addressed the Council noting the need for good education. Mr. Brennan explained that he receives a good education at Aquidneck School.**

**Councillor Rodrigues noted that he believes the children are our future and the schools are an economic driver. Mr. Rodrigues noted support for fully funding the proposed School budget.**

**Lisa Wood, 91 Gossett's Turn Drive, addressed the Council in support of fully funding the proposed School Department budget. Ms. Wood explained that she trusts the school department with her children's education.**

**Councillor Viveiros noted the California tax process. Mr. Viveiros requests the school department identify ways to fund their shortfall.**

**Vice President Kempenaar noted support for a 2% budget increase.**

**Jennifer Holubenko, 102 Atlantic Drive, inquired how grant/civic support requests are funded.**

**Town Administrator Shawn Brown, responding to Jennifer Hoelbesko, explained that civic appropriations are funded by the General Fund and Parks and Recreation Fund.**

**Jake Cathers, 208 Meadow Lane, addressed the Council in support of fully funding the proposed school budget. Mr. Cathers noted that the education system has a value.**

**There being no other persons present desiring to be heard, public hearing was declared closed.**

**Councillor Viveiros noted that he makes his decisions based on what is best for the Town.**

**Councillor Lombardi noted agreement with Councillor Viveiros. Mr. Lombardi explained that he will hold the line at a 2% budget increase.**

**Discussion centered around the purchases of Fire Department brush truck and police cars, the master pricing list, lease purchase payments, pay as you go for vehicle purchases and reduction in Town staffing.**

**On motion of Councillor Viveiros, duly seconded, to amend the General Fund budget to three police cruisers from four cruisers; motion withdrawn.**

**On motion of Councillor Viveiros, duly seconded, to reduce the total cost of police cars by \$40,437.**

**Police Chief Pesare noted that the purchase of a police cruiser is within the vehicle replacement program.**

**Councillor VonVillas noted she is uncomfortable reducing the Police budget at the last minute.**

**A vote was taken, on the above motion restated here:**

**On motion of Councillor Viveiros, duly seconded, to reduce the total cost of police cars by \$40,437; Councillor Santos and Councillor Viveiros voted YES; Council President Sylvia, Vice President Kempenaar, Councillor Lombardi, Councillor Rodrigues and Councillor VonVillas voted NO to said motion; MOTION FAILED TO PASS.**

**On motion of Councillor Viveiros to keep the money from the rescue vehicle and place in the fund until enough money is able to purchase the vehicle to eliminate the lease purchase.**

**Town Administrator Shawn Brown requests the Council to defer the purchase and vote whether or not to purchase the truck for \$98,000.**

**Councillor Viveiros noted concern of borrowing more money.**

**Council President Sylvia clarified Councillor Viveiros' motion above, noting that the Town will wait until it has the total amount of money on hand without using a lease purchase plan.**

**The motion of Councillor Viveiros was duly seconded, and restated, at this time:**

**On motion of Councillor Viveiros, duly seconded, to keep the money from the rescue vehicle and place in the fund until enough money is able to purchase the vehicle to eliminate the lease purchase; Councillor Santos, Councillor Rodrigues and Councillor Viveiros voted YES; Council President Sylvia, Vice President Kempenaar, Councillor Lombardi, and Councillor VonVillas voted NO to said motion; MOTION FAILED TO PASS.**

**On motion of Councillor Rodrigues, duly seconded, to keep the budget at 2%, but find \$144,000 for the School Department; motion withdrawn.**

**On motion of Councillor Rodrigues, duly seconded, it was voted to not vote on this budget this evening for time to find the additional funds for the School Department.**

**Councillor Vonvillas noted that funding should not be taken from other departments.**

**Councillor Rodrigues noted his intension is to remain at a 2% budget and review the budget for potential savings.**

**Councillor Viveiros noted that to fully fund the school department request and keep the budget at 2%; monies would have to come from other departments.**

**A vote was taken, on the above motion restated here:**

**On motion of Councillor Rodrigues, duly seconded, it was voted to not vote on this budget this evening for time to find the additional funds for the School Department Councillor Rodrigues and Councillor Santos voted YES; Council President Sylvia, Vice President Kempenaar, Councillor Lombardi, Councillor Viveiros and Councillor VonVillas voted NO to said motion; MOTION FAILED TO PASS.**

**On motion of Vice President Kempenaar, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to adopt said ordinance on its second reading, as amended.**

**2. Resolution of the Council, re: Tax Levy Resolution.**

**On motion of Vice President Kempenaar, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to pass said resolution.**

**3. Resolution of the Council, re: Memorializing the General Assembly to Enact Legislation Authorizing the Town of Middletown To Finance the Design, Construction, Repair, Rehabilitation and Improvement of Streets and Sidewalks in the Town, Including But Not Limited to Paving, Drainage, Traffic Control Devices, Safety Improvements and Landscaping in the Town.**

**On motion of Vice President Kempenaar, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to pass said resolution.**

**On motion of Vice President Kempenaar, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to adjourn said meeting at 9:17 pm.**

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**Wendy J.W. Marshall, CMC**

**Council Clerk**

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